



SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*January
1952*

Miscellany

COVER: Trail entrance, Clair Tappaan Lodge.
By Alan Stiles.

We call your attention to the Outing Committee notes, and the proposed Family Burro Trip. You know about those independent family trips which have been so successful. Here is your opportunity to learn from their experience, and start off with your own family on mountain trails the easy way. Be sure to write the chairman, Dr. H. Stewart Kimball, if you are interested.

On exhibit at the club office in San Francisco, is a collection of photographs by Dr. Harold Bradley, taken to show the "blighted areas" and can-beset condition of many of our forest and mountain campsites, and the "burn and smash" method of coping with the cans. This exhibit is being arranged by the Conservation Education Committee for easy and vivid display, and in time each chapter will be sent photographs and posters. In this way, such distribution can be made of the exhibit, that its message will be carried to the general public, and we hope, to those who need it most.

Do you want hunting in the National Parks? is asked by Olaus Murie in the December *Natural History*. He points out graphically the danger which follows in the wake of the bill passed in 1950, which combined Grand Teton National Park and the Jackson Hole National Monument into one enlarged park—a noble accomplishment. But the danger lies in the provision contained in the bill (and relating only to that specific area) allowing the elk herd to be reduced *if necessary*, by specially deputized persons. This bill was *not* to be construed as a precedent for hunting in national parks, but as Mr. Murie says, "A legislator may declare his intention that an act shall not be a precedent. But precedents are not necessarily created or prevented by fiat. They become precedents in the minds of people." We suggest you read the article and get the whole context, as there is more to it than just this short quotation.

The San Francisco Sports, Travel and Boat Show will be held this year from February 29 through March 9, in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco.

THE SIERRA CLUB, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 37

JANUARY, 1952

NUMBER 1

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

For the January Record

Warning to Skiers

The ink was hardly dry on Bill Stokes' story on this year's "worst avalanche threat" (February 1st *Oakland Tribune*) when it happened.

Stokes quoted snow-expert Professor J. E. Church at some length—the Sierra this winter was in the same state as the Alps last winter, where the tremendous snowfall brought down hundreds of devastating avalanches; the snow hasn't had a chance to consolidate; skiers should not use slopes steeper than 20 degrees, unless declared safe by competent inspectors.

"Two long-time Sierra Club officials," Stokes went on, "took a slightly more optimistic view of the situation." We won't name them because of what happened since. A former Alta expert claimed the pack is "good and solid" at Donner summit, the runs safe. The State Division of Water Resources counterclaimed that conditions are "highly favorable for big slides."

As we were saying, the paper had hardly hit the stands when the pessimists began picking up the chips. Three more avalanches fell on Highway 50 and an avalanche swept out twelve cabins at Fallen Leaf Lake—so reported Bill Stokes to us by telephone while we were in press.

The moral seems pretty clear: pessimists will live longer than optimists this winter. Skiers should take great care on all steep slopes and give plenty of heed not only to the snow they're on, but also to that which may be delicately poised above or below them. Slopes are avalanching this winter that were never known to avalanche before.

Seasonal snowfall, already exceeding 500 inches at Donner Summit, promises to exceed Weldon Heald's fondest hopes (see 1949 annual *SCB*).

Carmel River Beach

Word from the Point Lobos League is that the \$15,000 acquisition fund, to which many Sierrans contributed, has been added to county and state moneys to acquire Carmel River Beach for a state park.

Condemnation proceedings have been started to acquire the forty acres south of the river. The sixty acres north of the river, including the marsh and lagoon, have been appraised, and negotiations with the various property owners are under way.

What's New With Butano

Since the September *SCB*, in which we were able to report that the Sierra Club Grove fund had reached \$5,150, we have received additional donations, including \$500 from the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, bringing the fund to about \$5,750. This money is being held in the club treasury until the State Park Commission asks that it be turned in to them. Including our \$5,750, and all other funds now known to be available, there is a total of \$510,000 available for purchase of lands in the Butano.

At a recent State Park Commission meeting, it was decided that current acquisition plans should center around 1,680 acres in the drainage of the South Butano. We are sure the \$510,000 now available will purchase only a portion of the 1,680 acres, so

the Butano Forest Associates are continuing the drive for additional funds.

In conjunction with the effort to secure the 1,680 acres, we have asked the State Park Commission to investigate the possibility of acquiring 320 acres of public domain (which is contiguous to the 1,680 acres).

The most recent development in the Butano Forest Associates was the election of new officers and Board of Directors on Jan-

uary 22. The new president, Ralph Shaw, is Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for San Mateo County. Since his election to the board last year, he has worked arduously for the Butano. As president, he will capably represent the Butano Forest Associates in negotiations with the State Park Commission and will carry forward the project to a successful conclusion.

J. R. B.

Where Are the Buffalo?

We have less of everything than we had fifty years ago, but we have made progress in game management nevertheless. Fifty years ago we were still shooting ducks and geese in the spring, without limit, killing prairie chickens by the lumber-wagon load; Golden Plover, Sandhill Cranes, and Trumpeter Swan were "game birds"; our agricultural colleges were teaching farmers that they should drain their marshes, cut away their mock-orange hedgerows, and plow closer to the fences in order to plant more corn The beginning of wisdom in the field of game management seems to have come only with the threat of total extinction

This quotation, from a letter by "Ding" Darling, appears in a paper by Clarence Cottam, Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, summing up "Fifty Years of Progress and Handicaps in Wildlife Management."*

"When we compare current needs in the wildlife field with our present low management efficiency we might be discouraged," writes Dr. Cottam. But he inclines toward optimism, pointing to the development of wildlife administration as a profession, and to the growth and work of many conservation organizations within the past half-century.

"Wildlife is a product of the land just as much as corn, cotton, or livestock. Consequently, the patterns of land use or abuse determine the kinds and abundance of wildlife that may be found Poor land makes poor wildlife." Thus Dr. Cottam hails soil conservation efforts, the seeding of pasture lands, and fire protection of wooded areas.

A vital factor, however, is "human ecology," the pressure of hunters and fishermen on the supply of wildlife for "harvest." Population has increased in 50 years from 76 to 155 millions; land under cultivation from 409 million acres to 512. The number of hunting and fishing licenses rose from 10,600,023 in 1933 to nearly 28 million in 1950. And Dr. Cottam notes that the new army of sportsmen uses airplanes, fast trains and high-speed cars, with powerful and efficient modern equipment for the kill.

The federal system of wildlife refuges, started in 1903, has grown to include some 18 million inviolate acres. This and other accomplishments of the expanded government and private programs, both in the United States and Canada, lead Dr. Cottam to find some satisfaction in the record of 50 years. Nonetheless he warns:

It is good science, and good Americanism, to realize that Nature marks for the discard all things that are biologically or scientifically unsound. Our economic system is no exception. Our nation can remain solvent only so long as our natural resources remain productive. The conservation of our soil, water, forests and wildlife is essential not only to our prosperity, health and happiness, but to the security and permanence of our national life and our very existence

* Paper delivered before the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners meeting at Rochester, New York, September 10-11, 1951. Printed in *Wyoming Wild Life*, monthly publication of the Wyoming Fish and Game Commission.

Kern Sierra Group Active

Down in Bakersfield, a group of Sierra Club members is hoping to grow enough to become a chapter. In the meantime, they have organized into an active unit, with planned trips and gatherings, and have issued the first number (we think it is No. 1 although it is not so designated) of a one-page publication—*Kern Sierra Newsletter*. Chief news in this issue is the announcement of the officers, appointed in December to head the activities of the group: Jerry Ganopole, Chairman; Tony Reina, Vice-Chairman; Liz Taylor Girard, Secretary-Treasurer. They have also appointed committee chairmen for the various committees—Outing, Membership, Program, Conservation, Publicity, and Special Events. They have been very active since the first meeting in June, with monthly business meetings, outings to many places of interest, a barbecue, a Christmas party, and several illustrated lectures on conservation and outdoor themes.

Anyone in the vicinity who is interested is invited to participate in the group's program. Mailing address of the *Kern Sierra Newsletter* is 206 Beech Street, Bakersfield.

The group is to be congratulated on its vigorous spirit and successful beginning; it would seem that it will not be long before it has the necessary fifty members which will make it eligible to become a regular chapter of the Sierra Club.

A Week for Conservation

Sierrans practice conservation—and preach it—all the year, but during the week of March 7-14 the club will join with other organizations of like mind in the observance of California's 18th annual Conservation Week. Both state and federal agencies concerned with the use and protection of natural resources will provide speakers and materials during the week for meetings planned by many civic, fraternal, educational and other groups throughout the state. Among these are several Sierra Club chapters which have incorporated conservation programs in their schedules.

General theme is elimination of wasteful practices in our daily life. In addition, each

day is dedicated to a special topic: Friday, March 7, California Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day; Saturday, March 8, Outdoor Good Manners Everywhere; Sunday, March 9, Enjoying Recreation in the Outdoors; Monday, March 10, Forest, Farm and Field—Protect from Fire, Promote Wise Use; Tuesday, March 11, Parks, Wildlife and Plant Life; Wednesday, March 12, Good Land Use; Thursday, March 13, Non-Renewable Resources—Minerals, Gas and Oil; Friday, March 14, Wise Use of Water Resources.

Warren T. Hannum, State Director of Natural Resources, is general chairman of the observance, which is sponsored by the California Conservation Council. Complete program guides, with suggestions for organizations planning to participate, are available on request to the Council, 912 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara.

San Diego's Guymon Lodge

The two cabins presented to the Sierra Club by E. T. Guymon, Jr., of San Diego, are situated in a pine and oak forest at 5,500 feet elevation, in the Laguna Mountains, which are sixty miles from San Diego.

Climbers and hikers are offered many opportunities in the vicinity. Laguna Crest, with its interesting peaks, is not far away, and a few hundred yards to the west of the cabins, is the steep drop of approximately 3,500 feet to the desert below.

Illustrated here is the larger of the two cabins. The San Diego Chapter invites all Sierra Club members to visit and stay at the Guymon Lodge.

JERRY ZAGORITES
Chairman, San Diego Chapter



Notes on the Big Snow

Current (late January) information on, and activities in, the field of skiing are at a low ebb, due, of all things, to too much snow. Our problem is not the lack of snow, but how to get to it. Also, reliable sources indicate that when we gain the snow pack with skis the obstacles are now buried power lines and roof tops, rather than bushes and rocks of recent seasons.

Mike Curtis, manager of Clair Tappaan Lodge, reports the premises still intact, although the dormitory annex has practically disappeared under snow, and the access to the power house for the Signal Hill rope tow is now by descent rather than ascent. Two guests beat a hasty retreat to the Bay Area by train on Sunday, January 13, passing the ill-fated City of San Francisco on the way. However, by the time this appears, the stock of fresh food supplies will have been replenished and the lodge will be ready for use, pending provision of parking areas by the highway maintenance crews.

The touring program will proceed when possible, and many of the tours scheduled (see *SCB*, December 1951) have been postponed to a later date. If you are interested in any of these trips, telephone the leaders or drop a card to them in care of the club

office. Two of the areas to which ski camping trips are scheduled—Desolation Valley and Barker Peak—are of special interest because they are on the Sierra Crest between Echo and Norden, and are in the region being considered by the club's Chain-of-Ski-Huts program. The Winter Sports and Lodge committees are currently in the throes of finishing the plans for the Rolf Pundt Ski Hut on the Crest about eight ski-trail miles south of Squaw Peak, and they will welcome any aid or suggestions.

ALAN STILES

Outing Committee Plans

At the meeting of the Outing Committee on December 8, several actions were taken that will be of interest.

It was decided to establish an endowment fund, the proceeds of which are to be used by the Sierra Club for conservation purposes. The Outing Committee will keep \$10,000 on hand for working capital and emergencies. Any surplus that is accumulated beyond this amount will be turned over to the Sierra Club for its conservation work.

The Outing Committee is considering sponsoring another type of trip—a Family Burro Trip. Briefly, the purpose of this trip will be to teach families how to conduct pack trips with their children, and it would be led by a leader family taking three other families with their children. The committee wonders how many families would be interested in such a trip, and asks those who are, to write the chairman.

A new subcommittee of the Outing Committee has been formed, with Alfred Dole as chairman. This subcommittee will be educational in nature, offering its services to help persons desiring to plan their own trips. Programs, personal interviews, and correspondence are planned to guide persons in the problems involved in food buying and preparation, pack animal procurement, packing, and child management. It is also planned to coördinate the work of this committee with chapter educational committees.

H. STEWART KIMBALL
Chairman, Outing Committee

Trail to Pear Lake Ski Hut
Photo by Alan Stiles



U. S.

Black, I
Bouque
Cochran
Cogburn
Evers, I
Field, C
Furnas,
Hamme
Howell,
Huber,
Jasperso
Lyons, A
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Sierra Club Members in the Armed Services

The following represent names of those in the services of whom we have been notified during the period from October 10, 1951, to January 21, 1952. First list appeared in *SCB* for October, 1951.

U. S. Army

Black, Donald R.
Bouquet, Pierre
Cochran, Robert L.
Cogburn, Robert F.
Evers, Donald
Field, Charles M.
Furnas, Arthur R.
Hammel, Eugene A.
Howell, Arthur Llewelyn
Huber, Earl R., Jr.
Jaspersen, Robert W.
Lyons, Allan
Meacham, William M.
Meers, John R.
Morgan, Joan
Parker, Howard G.
Richard, John E.
Robinson, Ruth M.
*Yde, Erik F.
Zografos, Frank, Jr.

U. S. Air Force

Bates, Robert E.
Bedwell, Mary E.
Collins, William F.
Doty, Robert E.
Duryea, Robert F.
Hansen, Robin
Hedden, Alan R.
Heryford, Donald L.
Jory, Stephen T.
Van Wyck, Sam
Welch, Robin
Wills, Wayne

U. S. Navy

Barnes, Robert F.
Burtscher, Bob
Coleman, George W.
Frohlich, Howard
Meyer, L. Bruce
Stephenson, Waite H., Jr.

Marine Corps

Jenkins, Sidney F.
McKissick, Carson

Corrections on previous list:

U. S. Army

Slocum, Fritz, *should be*
Sloman, Fritz

Coast Guard

Schnitzer, R. L., *should be*
Schnetzer, R. L.

* Missing in action in Korea since February 12, 1951.

Anniversary in Mexico

Word from our friend, Professor Otis McAllister, President Honorary of the Club de Exploraciones de Mexico, tells us that this year our sister organization over the border will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary on March 26. Since 1922, when it was founded, it has been continuously active in promoting hiking and mountain climbing in Mexico. Many Sierra Club members when in Mexico have experienced and appreciated the cordial hospitality shown them by the Mexican club and its members.

Last autumn the club came into possession of a building for a club house. This was

formally opened on August 4, 1951, and will be a great asset in furthering the club's activities. Funds are needed, however, to pay off the debt connected with the Building Fund. If anyone is interested and would like to send in a donation, it will be gratefully received. Checks may be made out to the Club de Exploraciones de Mexico, and sent direct to Prof. McAllister at Apartado Postal 1908, Mexico, D.F.

Sierra Club members are cordially invited to visit the club house when in Mexico, and we in turn, wish the club success, and congratulations on its thirty vigorous years.

GENERAL LIBRARY.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

Letters

Washington, D.C., Nov. 30, 1951
EDITOR—I enclose my check for one copy of "Going Light with Backpack or Burro." During the summer I have already made good use of the book, and so want one for myself. I find a most useful supplement to it is the pamphlet "Hiking, Camping, Mountaineering, and Trail-Clearing Equipment," 7th edition, 1950, published by our Potomac-Appalachian Trail Club, of which I am a member

I should like to add my congratulations to the many others you have received on "Going Light." It certainly leads by many miles in its field.

HERBERT N. BUDLONG

San Francisco, Jan. 15, 1952
EDITOR— . . . I think it's fine for the SCB to be able to publicize, as it did in the December 1951 issue, the significant remarks by Secretary Chapman and Assistant Secretary Doty. These statements by top representatives of the Department of the Interior should be welcome news to Sierra Club members generally.

Although I was fortunate in hearing Mr. Doty in Los Angeles I am pleased to be able to review his address again in type and to know that all our members have the opportunity to see and digest such a forthright statement of policy.

LEWIS F. CLARK

Sacramento, Jan. 16, 1952
EDITOR—Thank you for the item "Yosemite Field School" in your current number National park nature guiding came from surveys Mrs. Goethe and I made of similar work in some six European countries. We saved money to support it, then commenced at Lake Tahoe. There Director Mather saw this was the thing to win his fight against those exploiters wanting to turn Yosemite into a great Coney Island He asked me that Christmas in Yosemite to

take the telegraph key and not to quit until Dr. Bryant and Dr. Miller consented to come. "Yosemite is a cathedral," he said, "we must preserve it as we would one of Europe's fine old Gothic structures."

C. M. GOETHE

MORE MISCELLANY

The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, at its executive committee meeting in December, re-elected the incumbent officers for the ensuing year: Thomas H. Jukes, Chairman; Richard M. Noyes, Vice-President and Treasurer; Merritt L. Kastens, Secretary.

The committee chairmen were also reappointed as follows: Conservation—Ben Cummings; Membership—Richard M. Noyes; Publicity—Anita Shuster; Schedule—Albert Beiler.

The Bishop Pine, one of California's most picturesque native pines, is described and discussed by John Thomas Howell in the January-February *Pacific Discovery*. Fine photographs by M. Woodbridge Williams add to the interest of the article.

In the same issue are photographs by Ansel Adams, of African scenes. No, Ansel has not just returned from Africa; the pictures were taken in the African Hall of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park.

"Plunder in Our National Forests," an article by Cleveland van Dresser in the January issue of *American Forests*, deals with the conditions in Colorado's Roosevelt National Forest, where with little effort or expenditure, opportunists are grabbing up, or devastating, parts of the public domain. This is the first of a series of three articles on "Abuses Under the Mining Laws," showing what extraordinary doings are possible under the present ones. It should be an interesting series to follow.

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